

February 28, 2006

This lawsuit can best be described as the “Bennie Thompson Protection Act of 2006.”

This lawsuit states that the Democrat Party is "irreparably injured" by the participation of independents in Democrat primaries. The Democrats are saying they don't want independent voters to "influence" their elections. The Republican Party wants the active support of independents and like-minded Democrats. The Democrats want to close themselves off in order to ensure that only the extreme left candidates can get their party's nomination.

It is typical Democrat response to any perceived problem: Sue somebody.

In this case, they've targeted not only the Republican Governor but also two of their own party's statewide elected officials, Attorney General Jim Hood and Secretary of State Eric Clark. How ironic that Democrats have now resorted to suing themselves, and how fortunate for the rest of us.

The Democrat Party is already doing a pretty good job of shielding itself against any outside influences – just look at their national policies. Now they want to force Mississippi voters to accept the liberal dogma of national party operatives like Hilary Clinton and Howard Dean.

The right to hold a political philosophy or not may indeed be a federally protected right, but nowhere do I read in the U.S. Constitution or Mississippi law that this right is exclusive to Democrats. This lawsuit is an insult to people everywhere who believe in free elections.

This deliberate effort to limit voter participation in any election is dangerous, counter-productive and another illustration that the state Democrat Party is driving itself to irrelevancy.

The Democrat Party might actually benefit, as have we Republicans, from the insights and contributions of independent voters. Political parties ought to be encouraging voters, not slapping them in the face.

Democrats want a closed primary and are suing because they claim they are being forced to associate with Republicans and Independents. They want the federal courts to sanction a loyalty oath to the national Democrat Party. Democrats evidently fear they are on the brink of failure at the ballot box and now want the federal judiciary to come to their rescue.

I doubt Mississippi's conservative and independent-minded voters will like this latest political maneuver at all, except for the entertainment value of watching Democrats sue themselves.